

**In the claims:**

Please cancel claims 8 and 10.

Claims 1-6 (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) A device for adjusting the degree of preload of springs in office chair mechanisms, said device comprising at least two first and second parts hinged together,

elastic means maintaining said first and second parts elastically spaced apart,

a first element provided with at least one inclined surface extending helically,

a second element provided with at least one inclined surface extending helically and interacting with the inclined surface of the first element,

means for inducing axial rotation of one of said two elements,

means for blocking the rotation of the other of said two elements,

said first and second elements being coupled between the elastic means and one of the first and second parts.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the means for inducing axial rotation consists of a worm engaging a toothing provided on one of two elements.

10. (Canceled)